

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at America's Best Value Inn on Washington Road

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
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THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

February, 2013

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM

Two Regional Shows Scheduled for February & March

Club Meeting Calendar for 2013

Jan. 17	May 16	Sep. 19
Feb. 21	June 20	Oct. 17
Mar. 21	July 18	Nov. 21
Apr. 18	Aug. 15	Dec. 19

Two 3 Day Shows to be Held in Spartanburg, SC and Chattanooga, TN

At the beginning of every meeting Vice President, Glenn Sanders reports on all of the upcoming shows within a three to four hour travel-time drive radius from the CSRA that will be occurring between the current club meeting and the next. If you have become a more serious collector since joining our club but have never branched out beyond attending our two club shows or visiting area dealers' shops you may want to consider one of these two upcoming shows.

The Upstate South Carolina Coin Show scheduled for February 22, 23 & 24 is being held at the Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium located at 285 North Church Street. Hours are 10 AM to 6 PM, Fri. & Sat, Feb. 22 & 23, and 10 AM to 3 PM Sun, Feb. 24. According to Numismatic News Show Directory, 110 tables are expected to be sold with a large number of dealers set up, perhaps as many as 65 to 75 when the Show opens Friday morning. Drive time from the CSRA is around 2½ hours. There are a number of routes to choose from the CSRA depending on where you reside. You need to eventually get on to I-26 north and exit in Spartanburg. At the beginning of next month, an even larger Show will be held in Chattanooga sponsored by the Tennessee State Numismatic Association. That one is scheduled for Fri. Sat. & Sun., March 1 thru 3 at the Camp Jordan Arena located just off I-75, Exit 1, which is just over the Georgia/Tennessee state line. Around 200 tables will be sold for this event. Hours are 10 AM to 6 PM Fri. & Sat, Mar. 1 and 2, 10 AM to 3 PM, Sun., Mar. 3. Drive time from Augusta is around four hours, therefore an overnight stay at one of the many nearby motels is recommended. Get on I-20 west to Atlanta, then take I-75 northbound (*not I-285*) towards Dalton and beyond to the very first exit in TN off I-75.

The US Coinage of 1793 – 220 years ago, the ½¢s

By Arno Safran



A 1793 Liberty Cap facing left Half-Cent, C-3 R3
Shown actual size, 22 mm) graded XF-45 by NGC
This specimen realized \$20,700 at a
Heritage Signature Auction held in April, 2012
(Courtesy of Heritage Auction Archives)

1793 represents the first official year of United States coinage. However, the only coins struck 220 years ago were copper large cents and half-cents. While the large cent underwent three changes in design, only one primary design was created for the 1793 half-cent and that was the Liberty Cap facing left. The late Roger Cohen, Jr., author of *American Half Cents, the Little Half Sisters* (2nd Ed. 1982) believes the obverse design was created by artist and engraver Joseph Wright influenced by Augustin Dupre's 1776 dated *Libertas Americana* Medal created at the Paris Mint in 1782.



A Paris mint restrike of the Libertas Americana Medal
Shown in actual size, 47 mm

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

The US Coinage of 1793 – 220 years ago, the ½¢s

(Continued from page 1, column 2)



Enlargement of same 1793 Half-Cent specimen shown atop page 1
Attributed by Roger Cohen as C-3 (Obverse 2), R3
AKA the Hooked-Line variety
[Courtesy of Heritage Auction Archives]

Cohen suggests that it was Joseph Wright who prepared the die for the first half cent but unfortunately, later succumbed to the Yellow Fever epidemic that swept through Philadelphia that summer. Cohen further believes that Adam Eckfeldt, a young machinist was entrusted by first Mint Director David Rittenhouse to continue Wright's efforts, creating a second obverse variety known as the hooked-line caused by the sharp curve under the apex Liberty's neckline appearing well above the 7 and 9 in the date. Chief coinier Henry Voigt was the engraver for all three acknowledged 1793 half-cent varieties.

The reported mintage for the 1793 half-cent was just 35,334 and survivors even in circulated grades are scarce and costly. The specimen shown above was graded XF-45 by NGC and sold for \$20,700 at a Heritage Auction back in April, 2012. Such a price is well beyond the budget of most serious coin collectors. However, in the mid 1990s, *(as with the large cents of 1793,)* the Gallery Mint created marvelous business-strike replicas for around \$8.00 per coin. *(See directly below.)* They also struck proof versions at a cost of \$17.00 to the collector.



A Mint state Gallery Mint replica of the 1793 half cent
(Approximately actual size, 22 mm in diameter)
[Use 3 power glass or magnify page to 150% to view details.]

These replicas were engraved by Ron Landis and were made employing approximately the same alloy, weight and size as the originals, then struck on a screw press modeled after the one used to strike the originals at the Philadelphia Mint back in 1793. By law the word *COPY* had to appear on the coin with most collectors opting for its inclusion on the reverse. By 1997, both the business strikes and the proof 1793 half-cent issues were sold out, the dies supposedly destroyed. Today, these 1793 half cent replicas can only be attained on the secondary market but even at increased prices they will not cost anywhere near what even an original AG-3 specimen would bring at auction.

Not all 1938-D Buffalo Nickels are Common



A 1938-D Indian Head/ Buffalo nickel grading MS-65
[Use 3 power glass or magnify page to 200% to view details.]

One of the most popular US coin designs has been the Indian head/ Buffalo nickel designed by James Earle Fraser. The coin was issued from 1913 to 1938-D and during its 25 year run it was struck in every year except 1922, 1932 and 1933. When the Government decided to honor Thomas Jefferson on the nickel beginning in 1938, the only Mint to strike Buffalo nickels that year was the Denver Mint and they apparently went all out, producing the best strikes of all dates in prodigious numbers, often with blazing luster. Since even non-collectors realized this was the final year, a vast number of Mint state specimens were saved with the result that today the 1938-D certified MS-65 is listed at just \$39.00 according to the Coin Dealer Newsletter *Monthly Supplement*. Most dealers will pay far less than that because the coin is so common. There is however, a 1938-D Buffalo nickel that has considerably greater value known as the 1938 D/S or D/D/S. The latter the scarcer of the two punches.



Detail of 1938-D/S Buffalo nickel reverse` showing D/S mintmark

When encountering a 1938-D Buffalo nickel at a coin shop or show, check the mintmark located directly below FIVE CENTS on the reverse. With no more than a 3X power magnifying glass you should have no difficulty spotting the over-mintmark if it's there. The D/S mintmark was not caused by an error. After it was decided that no Buffalo nickels would be struck in San Francisco, the 1938-S stamped mintmarks were re-engraved at the Denver Mint with a D over it. In some cases, this may have been done twice creating the D/D/S anomaly. Such examples are a lot scarcer than the D/S. The difference in value between the regular issue and the D/D/S is considerable and worth sending it in for third party certification if purchased "raw". A certified MS-65 specimen could be worth over \$100.

Club News

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the America's Best Value Inn by 2nd Vice-President Howard Black filling in for President Steven Nix who is resting comfortably after having undergone knee surgery. We wish him well. Howard was ably assisted by his attentive little granddaughter who assisted her grandfather with the door prize drawings. Five junior members drew from the junior box. Jim Barry also donated coins to the YNs present. Thank you, Jim!

There were 46 members and 4 guests present. Among the guests was James Mullaney from Aiken who is Recording Secretary for the Stephen James CSRA Coin Club. President pro-tem Howard Black welcomed Jim and the other guests. The Treasurer's Report by Treasure Mike Joesbury was read and approved. Our current total club balance is \$10,459.93.

1st Vice President Glenn Sanders reported the following area Shows

Perry, Georgia	January 25-27, 2013
Charleston, South Carolina	February 8-10,
Spartanburg, South Carolina	February 21-24, 2013

Club Show Chairman David Chism announced that the Spring Augusta Coin Show will be held at Patriots Park on May 10th and May 11th located on Columbia Road. At the November Show, the club made a \$606.00 net profit. Thanks, David.

Secretary John Attaway announced the club's Perfect Attendance Winners for 2012. They were Bryan Hoyt, Danny Eden, Gary James, Everette Price, Glenn Sanders, Charles H. White, J. C. Williams, Col. John Mason, Mac Smith, John Attaway, and Howard Black. All of the forgoing named will receive free club membership for 2013. The same benefit will apply in 2014 for all perfect attendance winners this year.

Show and Tell: Before displaying his Show & Tell, member Jim Berry asked our club, (*an American Numismatic Association club member*), to support Mike Ellis for the ANA Board in the 2013 election. Jim displayed a Roman Empire 3rd Century less than 500% Silver Coin (billion) of Emperor Gallus dated 251 to 254 AD and related a brief summary of the history of the empire during that period.

The Program: Arno Safran gave a Power Point presentation on Coins of 1950, (*the seventh in his ongoing series on Collecting Coin Year Sets at the quarter-century mark, 1800 thru 2000.*) Arno reported that the 1950-D Franklin half grading MS-65 with full bell lines on the reverse is considered the current "key to the 35 piece set. He displayed the coins of 1950 struck at all three Mints, Philadelphia, Denver and San Francisco, but as no 1950-S Franklin halves were struck, he displayed a relatively 1950-S Booker T. Washington commemorative half in order to complete the half-dollar portion of the set. Also shown was one of the 51,386 1950 Proof Sets. In 1950, it was priced at \$2.10. It was the first US proof set produced since 1942.

The Prize Winners at the Jan 17 meeting were Joan Sienkiewicz and Mike Joesbury, each winning a 2011 Silver eagle. Winner of the 50/50 raffle was Mac Smith (\$65.00). Congratulations winners all! Our next meeting is Thursday, Feb. 21. As a reminder, 2013 Club Dues of \$12.00 are now due

for those who have yet to remit. We will discuss proposed designs for our 2013 club medallion. There will be a program followed by auction. Show & Tells are always welcomed. Please accompany your display with a short memo describing the piece for inclusion in the newsletter. Thank you.

(The editor thanks John Attaway for providing many of the club news items).

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